construction of link road / culvert, electrification and street lights in villages, installation /reparing of hand pumps, construction /renovation of ponds, construction of dam, construction / extension / reparing of school buildings, supply of furniture /apparatus to schools, construction of children's park, sulabh sauchalays, burning ghat, community centres, library and adult education centre in villages, stadium / play ground and supply of sports material to villagers etc.

Financial Losses at Indian American Expo in USA

52. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state that:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian American Expo organised by the Global Exhibitions Limited at the Atlanta city in USA resulted in fiasco causing huge financial losses and other problems to Indian participants; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) Indo-American Expo was held at Atlanta City, New Jersey, USA from 14h to 16th June, 1995. This Expo was organised by the private agencies viz: Global Exhibition Ltd. Hyderabad and Global Expositions Inc., New York. This exhibition was a wholly private initiative and no financial assistance was given by Government.

The Consul General of India, New York has intimated that against an expected participation of about 500 Indian companies, only 120 companies were able to participate, the Expo is reported to have been partially successful as majority of the participants from India were able to contact a number of importers in New York and New Jersey areas of USA and were able to get a feel of the American market.

Autonomous Development Councils

53. SHRI SARADA MOHANTY: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to set up autonomous development councils in some States;

(b) if so, the States where such councils are proposed to be set up;

(c) the justification for constitution of such Councils; and

(d) the details of the steps taken in that direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAVA): (a) There is no proposal before the Planning Commission for setting up autonomous development councils in some States.

(b) to (d) Do not arise..

Duty Exemption Scheme for Import of Raw Materials

54. SHRI V. RAJESHWAR RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state that:

(a) whether the duty exemption scheme for the import of duty-free raw materials has been successful;

(b) if so, what is the extent of its success;

(c) whether the five categories of licences under this scheme will be expanded;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) what is the response of the importers to this scheme, and whether they have suggested any modification, if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Duty Exemption Scheme has been an effective instrument for promot-